

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-18 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 9, 10 and 11-16 are independent. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 are hereby amended. Claims 2 and 6 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

Figure 1 is hereby amended. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, obviating the Double Patenting issue.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 were indicated as allowable. The currently pending independent claims recite the interpolating feature, which was present in allowed claim 6. Applicants respectfully submit that the interpolating feature is not disclosed or suggested in the art that was used as a basis of rejection. Indeed, Yoneyama does not disclose or suggest interpolating the header of the highest hierarchical level, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, the other independent claims, which recite similar features, are also believed to be allowable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

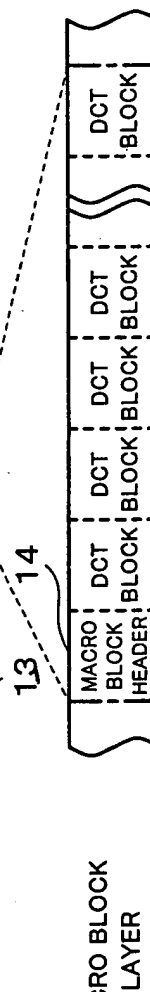
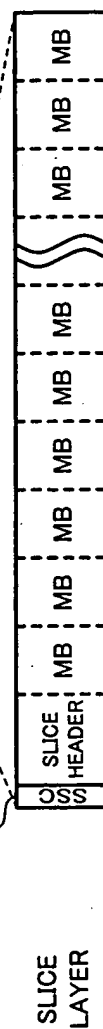
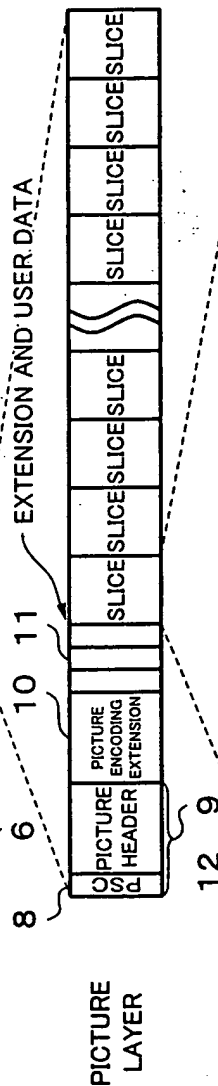
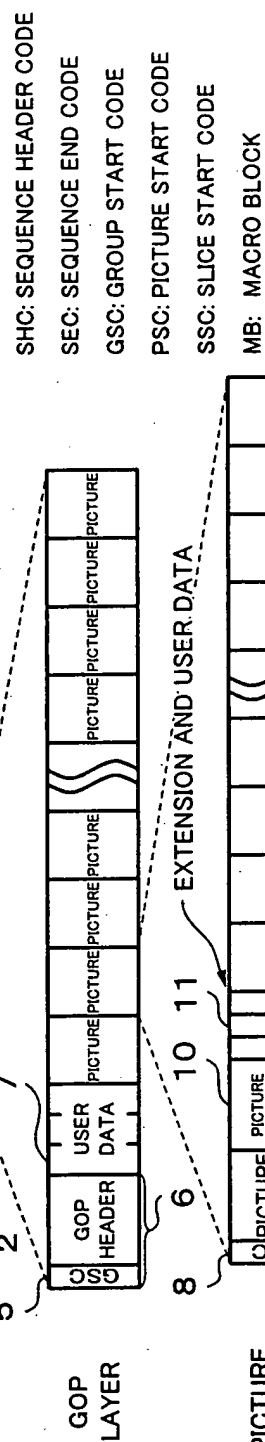
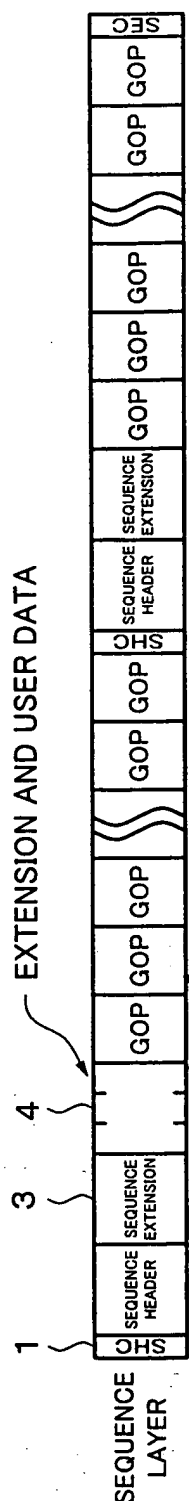
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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ART RELATED